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STATINTL

Dulles Says Bad Guess Led to the 'Missile Gap'

WASHINGTON, March 27 (UPI)—Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said today that the United States overestimated the Soviet Union's military intentions in the 1950's and this gave rise to rumors of a missile and bomber gap.

Mr. Dulles denied in an article published today that such a gap ever existed between the Soviet Union and the United States. The "missile gap" was one of the major Democratic charges against the Eisenhower Administration during the 1960 Presidential campaign.

Writing in the April issue of Harper's magazine, Mr. Dulles said that the C.I.A., responding to "great pressure" from the Defense Department, provided an educated guess on projected Soviet missile production figures keyed to known capabilities. But the Russians decided to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles at a slower, more orderly rate instead of rushing their awkward, early-model ICBM's to launching pads, Mr. Dulles wrote.

When evidence of this appeared, he added, the C.I.A. quickly lowered its estimates. The same was true of the apparent Soviet decision in 1957 to limit heavy-bomber production drastically.